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D O L G E L L A U U R B A N D I S T R I C T
C O U N C I L .

A N N U A L

H E A L T H R E P O R T

F O R T H E Y E A R

1963.



DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Hugh Francis, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

William Roy Smith, C.R.S.H., M.A. P.H.I.

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DOLGELLAU URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To The Chairman and Members of the Dolgellau Urban District Council.

Mr.Chairman, Mrs. Jenkins and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Health Report for the year ending December 31st, 1963.

The population estimate given by the Registrar General was 2,460 (2,470 in 1962 and 2,267 in the 1961 census).

There were 37 births in 1962 which was the same number as in 1961. One birth was illegitimate (none in 1961 or 1960). There were no stillbirths or infant deaths.

The number of deaths was 36 (41 in 1962 and 27 in 1961). The most common cases were cancer, especially cancer of the bronchus, vascular lesions of the nervous system and heart disease. This is the same as happens in the country generally. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and also four cases of measles but no other infectious disease.

I should like to thank the Public Health Inspector Mr.Smith for his valuable assistance and also the Clerk Mr.Evan Williams and all the officials of the Council for their unfailing help and advise.

Finally I wish to thank the council for the courtesy and consideration they have always given me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H.FRANCIS,

M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

District Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1963.

Area of DOLGELLAU URBAN DISTRICT	-	1,127 acres
Rateable Value	-	£58,203
Population (Registrar General's figure)	-	2,460
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	£230. 12. 4.
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Book) at the end of the year.	-	799

VITAL STATISTICS.

Comparability Factors -

Births 1.08

Deaths 0.96

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>		<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
Total.. .. .	37		11	26
Legitimate	36		11	25
Illegitimate ..	1		-	1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	15.04		
1962	-	14.98		

Illegitimate Live Births (per 1,000 population) - 0.41

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
Total.. .. .	Nil	Nil
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	Nil
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	-	Nil

<u>TOTAL BIRTHS</u>	(Live & Still)		<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
	Live	-	11	26
	Still	-	-	-

DEATHS

<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
Total	Nil	Nil
Legitimate.	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate.. ..	Nil	Nil

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - Nil
1962 figures - 27.02

Deaths of Legitimate Infants
Mortality (per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births) - Nil

Deaths of Illegitimate Infants
Mortality (per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births) - Nil

<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS.</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
Total.. .. .	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate. ..	Nil	Nil

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DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE.

<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Total....	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate - Nil

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate - Nil

Perinatal Mortality Rate - Nil

MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion)

Maternal Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Still Births) - Nil

1962 figures.....26.31

DEATHS

								<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total number...	...	36	20	16
Rate per 1,000 population	-	14.63							
1962 figures	-	16.59							

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

<u>CANCER.</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Total Number...	5	4	1
Rate per 1,000 population	- 2.05		
1962 figures	- 2.43		

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total Number...	...	1	Nil
Rate per 1,000 population	- 0.40		
1962 figures	- Nil		

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

- ## 1. Public Health Officers of the Authority

One Medical Officer of Health
One Public Health Inspector & Surveyor.

- ## 2. Laboratory Facilities

Milk and Water samples - examined at the Public Health Laboratories at Shrewsbury and Conway. The Public Health Laboratory at Aberystwyth was reopened on June 10th 1963. Chemical analysis of water - The Public Analyst Chester.

- ### 3. Ambulance Facilities.

4 Ambulances at Dolgellau.

- #### 4. Infant Welfare Clinics.

Held twice monthly at Ebenezer (Wesleyan) Chapel Vestry.

- ## 5. Ante Natal Clinics

Held twice monthly at Dolgellau Cottage Hospital.

- ## 6. Orthopaedic Clinics

At Dolgellau Hospital on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

After care clinic on the 4th Thursday of each month.

7. TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC.

Twice Monthly at Dolgellau Hospital.
Mass Radiography unit attends approximately
monthly on Fridays on dates advertised.

8. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunization against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis
and Vaccination against Smallpox, carried out in Infant Welfare Clinics and
General Practitioners surgeries.

9. HOSPITALS.

One Hospital at Dolgellau.

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified
during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	nil
Bacillary Dysentery	nil
Whooping Cough	nil
Measles	4
Infantile Paralysis	nil
Pneumonia	

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES.

Pulmonary	Total 2
	Males 2 Females nil
Non-Pulmonary	Total nil

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Pulmonary	Total 1.
	Males 1 Females nil
Non-Pulmonary	Total nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1963 in age groups.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 1								
1 year								
2 - 4								
5 - 9								
10 - 14								
15 - 19								
20 - 24								
25 - 34								
35 - 44								
45 - 54	1							
55 - 64	1							
65 - 74					1			
75 and over								

CAUSES OF DEATH 1963.

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis Pulmonary...	1	-
Tuberculosis, other...		
Syphilitic disease...		
Other infective and parasitic diseases...		
Cancer Stomach...		
" Bronchus...	3	-
" Breast ...		
" other sites...	1	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...		
Diabetes. ...		
Vascular lesions of nervous system...	3	6
Coronary disease, angina. ...	3	2
Hypertension with heart disease..		
Other heart diseases. ...	2	-
Other circulatory disease ...	2	1
Influenza ...		
Pneumonia ...		
Bronchitis...	2	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...		
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea...	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis..		
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion..		
Hyperplasia of prostate..	1	-
Congenital malformations. ...		
Other defined and ill-defined diseases...	1	3
Motor vehicle accidents..	-	1
All other accidents..		
Suicide..	1	-
Other diseases...	-	1

FOOD HYGIENE.

During the year supervision and advise was given to food handlers generally.

Number of prosecutions.....NIL.

G E N E R A L.

HOUSING.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Some progress has been made during the year in the clearing of certain sub-standard property and I am pleased to report that at least 50% of the houses let during the period went to tenants of unfit accommodation. Appropriate housing act action was taken in each case. In addition, initial steps were taken to clear the unfit property acquired by the Council in the South Street area. However, only the surface of this problem has thus far been touched, and only when the development authorised by the Council in Penycaeau and Arran Road is completed can any true progress be made. This is a very great problem indeed and deserves all the energies that the Council can devote to it.

REDEVELOPMENT AREAS.

The initial stage of the Sarn Road and South Street Redevelopment Scheme was completed when work on the old church school at Henfelin was brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The other part of the South Street Scheme became subject to close re-examination by the Council, and it was felt that as the original proposals would preclude the possibility of widening South Street, the whole scheme should be revised. Preliminary work in the layout of the Arran Road Redevelopment Scheme also has been commenced and it is hoped that it may be possible to get the scheme under way during 1964.

COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING.

Work was completed on the erection of 18 flats on the Lombard Street site, providing 12 two bedroom flats and 6 1 bedroom flats for elderly persons.

The Council have also under consideration the erection of 64 dwellings on the Penycaeau site and also the erection of 10 flats on the Arran Road Site.

Negotiations were commenced for the purchase of property belonging to the Welsh Hospital Board in the area of Ffordd-y-Felin and it is intended that the Council shall provide dwellings in this area to enable families now living in the redevelopment areas to be housed to allow work to commence in those areas.

OVERCROWDING.

There are no cases of legal overcrowding in the district.

PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

Activity in this direction has been very marked during 1963 and where hitherto virtually no private development had taken place in the Town for many years, the Council have quite suddenly been confronted with a spate of such development, and while this is unquestionably wholly desirable, the provision of the necessary services has created much work and concern.

The Fronallt site containing nine houses was completed while work on a further three houses on the adjacent site at Coed-y-Fronallt was commenced.

A site for 15 houses at Fronwmion was continued and several of the dwellings were occupied by the end of the year.

A nearby site at Cader Road which is eventually intended to contain nine houses was commenced and the larger private development site for 39 houses at Maesbrith got well under way.

In addition plans were approved for a number of individual private developments.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

I have yet again to report little enthusiasm on the part of Owners to take advantage of the grant -aided scheme for the improvement of existing dwellings. This was extremely disappointing as the scheme is wholly an admirable one, and if properly used can well turn a potential clearance area into an area containing useful accommodation for possibly the next half century. I feel if this scheme is ever to reach the high potential expected of it at its inception a much more vigorous lead must come from the Central Government by way of publicity and by way of additional incentives. Possibly one such incentive would be to include certain items of repair in the work ranking for grant. In addition, I feel that we as a Council should endeavour to give a lead in the publicity field as well.

One application for a Standard Grant and seven applications for Discretionary Grants were received and approved during the year.

Five grant aided schemes - 2 discretionary and 3 standard - were completed during the year.

The total number of improvement schemes completed since the commencement of the Act now amounts to 32.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

No clearance areas were declared during the year.

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

After informal action by local authority.....	20
After notice under (a) Public Health Act.....	Nil
After notice under (b) Section 9 and 16 Housing Act.....	1

HOUSING MANAGEMENT.

The Council employ direct labour for the carrying out of maintenance and repairs to Council Houses. Major works of repair are put out on contract.

The General condition of the Council's Housing Estates gives some cause for concern, and as and when time is available it is intended to carry out a complete survey which will give a clear picture of the work that should be undertaken.

It is hoped that this work will then be systematically carried out.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The frequency and method of collection was continued during the year, though with the increasing volume of refuse and the number of houses some difficulties were being experienced in maintaining the twice weekly collection.

The Council's attention is drawn to the necessity for the requirement of all householders to provide a standard dustbins and it is felt that this and the provision of a modern collection vehicle will enable the Council to maintain the existing service. The available tipping space at the Coedffriddarw Tip is decreasing rapidly and the Council will during the coming year have to consider either extending the existing site or acquiring a new one. In addition it will have to be borne in mind that to maintain a refuse tip in a satisfactory manner is both a difficult and expensive task and it might reasonably be argued that to provide and meet the cost of the equipment necessary is beyond the financial capabilities of the Council. With this in mind it may very well be to the benefit of both authorities if negotiations were opened with the adjoining Rural District Council to examine the possibility of joint action in this direction

STREET CLEANSING.

Cleansing of trunk and classified roads is carried out by the County Highways Authority, whilst the unclassified roads are attended to by this Authority. Every opportunity is taken to remind the public of the necessity to keep the Town "litter free" and litter bins have been provided in various parts of the Town. The Council have for some years adopted a byelaw for the prevention of fouling of footways by dogs.

With this service as indeed with most others I feel that to adequately perform it in the years to come, the Council may have to resort to some form of modernisation and I think this should be borne in mind for further discussion at a later date.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Conveniences are provided for both sexes at the Caemarian Recreation Park and also at the Free Library.

A male and female part time daily attendants are employed to clean the Public Conveniences. Paper hand towel machines are available in the conveniences.

The Council considered during the year a scheme for the adaptation of part of the Neuadd Idris to serve as a Public Convenience and toilet accommodation for both the public and the Neuadd Idris itself. It appears that this can fill the great need for conveniences in the centre of the Town and it is hoped that the Council will see their way clear to proceeding with the scheme during the year 1964.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There has been no change in the system during the year and the sewer discharges into the sea outfall.

The sewers were regularly inspected and flushed once monthly. Tact baiting for rodent infestation was carried out during the year.

A scheme for connecting existing properties in the Maescaled area including the new private properties at Fron Wnion to the public sewer was commenced during the later part of the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD HYGIENE.

The private slaughterhouse facilities at Arran Road continued to be in considerable use throughout the year, but the premises fell short of the required structural standards and efforts were made to bring about the improvement necessary. It is hoped that this work will be completed during 1964.

The Meat Inspection Regulations came into force during the year and these have placed a heavy additional load for the Officers responsible. However, the work is being carried out and 100% inspection is being maintained, though this is necessitating working out of normal hours and at the sacrifice of certain other duties.

Meat derived from animals slaughtered on the premises is supplied to a large area of the surrounding districts including considerable export of lamb to Liverpool. There is a steady increase in the gross total of animals slaughtered.

The high quality of the home produced meat was again very evident.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year is as follows:-

<u>CATTLE</u>	<u>CALVES</u>	<u>SHEEP AND LAMBS</u>	<u>PIGS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
37	6	6681	213	6937.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED.

TUBERCULOSIS There was no incidence of tuberculosis.

DISEASE OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Total killed</u>	<u>Carcases condemned</u>	<u>Part carcasses or organ condemned</u>	<u>Percentage of animals infected.</u>
Sheep	6681	2	238	3.59
Pigs	213	-	19	8.45
Calves	6	-	1	16.66
Cattle	37	-	9	24.51

Part carcasses or organs condemned.

Disease or Condition.

12 Pigs Livers	Parasitic
6 Pigs Lungs	Pneumonia
1 Pig Forequarter	Fracture and Brusing
186 Sheep Livers	Parasitic
48 Sheep Lungs	Parasitic
2 Sheep carcasses	1 Dedema and 1 Generalised Septicaemia
9 Ox Liver	Distomatosis
1 Calf carcass	Pyæmia

FOOD INSPECTION IN SHOPS.

The following food was surrendered and condemned during the year:-

Tinned Meat	38 lbs 15 ozs
Other Tinned Food	2 Cwts, 102 lbs, 1½ ozs
Fruit	136 lbs 10 ozs
Vegetables	1 Cwt
Fish	43 lbs 11 ozs
Cheese	2 lbs 10 ozs
Bacon	9 lbs 8 ozs
Tinned Milk	15 pints
Fruit Tart	6
Calf carcasses and offal	70 lbs

FOOD HYGIENE

Food premises are inspected periodically and the attention of food handlers is drawn to the necessity of compliance with the Regulations. Routine visits together with persuasive action has assisted in encouraging occupiers of food establishments to improve their premises and methods of food handling.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water for the town's supply was drawn from Llyn Cynwch. Great difficulty was experienced in maintaining a satisfactory supply particularly to the higher parts of the Town. The reasons for this situation were numerous, but the after effects of the exceptionally severe winter were perhaps the biggest single cause of the trouble. The frost had burst and weakened dozens of pipes throughout the Town that were already worn out and the task of putting the matter to rights was a long and tedious one.

Anxiety continued concerning the condition of the old trunk main but it was greatly comforting that excellent progress was made by the Contractors on contract No.2 of the Mawddach Joint Water Committee Scheme to bring a new trunk main from Llyn Cynwch to the Town. This work will be completed in early 1964 and will go a long way to solve the pressure difficulties and the inevitable teething troubles will be overcome.

Before much more development can take place in the area of the Hospital an improved water supply will be required in that part of the Town and to that end it is hoped that contract no. 4 of the Mawddach Joint Water Committee Scheme will be proceeded with at an early date.

While every effort will be made to put to rights the defects existing in the Town's mains before the Water Board accepts responsibility for this service both the time and the money are not available to do all that is required and I think it must be borne in mind that the worn out sections of the Town's mains and above all the dozens of defective private services will have to be completely renewed before it will be possible to report that the situation is completely satisfactory.

Samples of the water supply were taken from consumer taps and the source and submitted for bacteriological examinations. No anxiety was caused by the results.

ICE CREAMS PREMISES.

Manufacturing Premises	Nil
Number of Retailers	10

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council continue to carry out their obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 and the Rodent Operator is employed part time, being also responsible for the Dolgellau R.D.C. and Barmouth U.D.C.

Number of Premises inspected.

Local Authority	6
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	387
All other (including business premises)	109
Agriculture	7
No. of premises found infested	124
Treated by Local Authority	124
Notices served under Section 4	Nil
No. of "block control schemes" carried out	Nil

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

No. of premises on Register	18
No. inspected re cleanliness	18
No. inspected re sanitary conditions	18
Defects found	5
Defects remedied	5

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936.

Sanitary inspections of the Area.

Inspection re nuisance	15	Disinfestation	5
Drainage	27	Water Supply	235
Sewerage	15	Private Water Supply	5
Public Conveniences	52	Street Cleansing	52
Refuse Collection	52	Piggeries	-
Rivers and streams	11	Verminous premises	-
New Buildings etc.	72	Infestation	8
		re: Building Byelaws	300
		Dangerous Buildings	4

HOUSING

Housing Act 1957. Unfit Houses	29
re: Improvement Grants	34
Public Health Act, 1936 re Defects	8
Rent Act 1957	1
Re: Council House Repairs	218

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Fried Fish Shops	4	Bakehouses	12
Greengrocers	26	Grocers	36
Butchers	17	Cafes	16
Ice Cream Retailers	18	Food Stalls	8
Dairy	4	Visits to slaughterhouse	212
